

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and request reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner indicates that the feature "the transverse d_{31} strain axis" in line 8 of the claim as insufficient antecedent basis. As shown above under AMENDMENT A, the applicants have amended claim 1 to now recite in part "a transverse strain axis". Accordingly, claim 1 is definite and in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Because claims 2-18 depend from claim 1, claims 2-18 are definite and in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Examiner notes a minor informality that in claim 8 "structures" should be --structure--. As shown above, the applicants have amended claim 8 in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation.

The Examiner indicates that on page 8, lines 9 and 16 the numeral "16" represents two different elements. The Examiner also indicates that the phrase "there is expansion axis" on line 22 should be changed to read --there is an expansion along axis--. The Examiner also indicates that on page 9, line 2 numeral "32" is not illustrated in Fig. 1.

As shown above, the applicants have amended the specification to remove the duplicate reference to numeral 16 and have amended Fig. 1 of the drawings accordingly. The applicants have also amended "16a" in Fig. 2 to now read "19a", to be in accordance with reference number 19 in Fig. 1. Applicants have also amended the specification to recite "there is an expansion along axis" on page 8, line 22, as recommended by the Examiner. The

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets 1/8 and 2/8 of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 2 replace the original drawing sheets 1/8 containing Fig. 1 and drawing sheet 2/8 containing Figs. 2 and 3.

Attachment:

Replacement sheets 1/8 and 2/8.

applicants have also amended Fig. 1 to now include numeral 32. No new matter has been added.

All of the minor informalities and rejections indicated by the Examiner have been traversed. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are allowable and patentable.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'RJC', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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